B1 cont.

Takasawa et al., J. Biol. Chem. 270, 30257 (1995); H. Okamoto et al., Meth. Enzymol. 280, 306 (1997). Monoclonal antibody against HA was anti-HA 3F10 (Roche Diagnostics).

Page 35, delete the third paragraph starting on line 31 continuing to the next page and replace it with the following:

B2

The rat receptor expression vector with HA-tag was introduced into CHO cells and RINm5F cells. Cells were cultured in Roswell Park Memorial Institute 1640 medium (RPMI1640) with 10% fetal calf serum (Bio Whittaker, Walkersville, Maryland) and 250 µg/ml neomycin (Gibco) for 2 weeks [S. Takasawa et al., J. Biol. Chem. 273, 2497 (1998)]. Stable transformants expressing high levels of the recombinant protein were screened by immunoblot analysis of HA and isolated. Stable transformants expressing Reg receptor were cultured in RPMI1640 medium with 1% fetal calf serum in the presence of increasing concentrations of rat Reg protein for 24 h. During the last 2 h, BrdU (10 M) was added to the culture medium and BrdU incorporation was measured using a colorimetric cell proliferation ELISA kit (Roche Diagnostics).

Page 37, delete the third paragraph starting on line 15 and replace it with the following:

B3

After a 24 h incubation of the stable transformants expressing Reg receptor in RPMI1640 medium with 1% fetal calf serum in the presence of various concentrations of rat Reg protein, a solution containing WST-1 was added to the medium and cultured further for 30 min and the cleavage of tetrazolium salt 4[-3-(4-iodophenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2H-5- tetrazolio]-1,3-benzene disulfonate (WST-1) by mitochondrial dehydrogenases was measured in viable cells using a Cell Proliferation Reagent WST-1 (Roche Diagnostics). The cell number of RINm5F cells were increased in response to the addition of Reg protein (0.3-100 nM), but were reduced when the cells were incubated with high concentrations of Reg protein (Figure 8B).

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly enter the following amended claims.

8. (Amended) A method of screening for one or more compounds that bind to the protein or peptide according to claim 2, wherein said method comprises the following steps of,

(a) contacting the protein or peptide with a test sample containing one or more compounds,

(b) detecting the binding of the test sample to the protein or peptide, and,

(c) selecting the one or more compounds that bind to the protein or peptide.

B4

9. (Amended) A method of screening for one or more compounds that inhibit the binding of Reg protein to the protein or peptide according to claim 2, wherein said method comprises the following steps of,

(a) contacting Reg protein with the protein or peptide in the presence of a test sample containing one or more compounds,

(b) detecting the binding of Reg protein to the protein or peptide, and,

(c) selecting the one or more compounds that decrease the binding.

10. (Amended) A compound isolated by the method according to claim 9, wherein said compound inhibits the binding of Reg protein to the protein or peptide.

11. (Amended) A method of screening for one or more compounds that promote or inhibit signal transduction caused by an activation of the protein according to claim 2, wherein said method comprises the following steps of,

(a) contacting Reg protein with a cell expressing the protein on the cell surface, in the presence of a test sample containing one or more compounds,

(b) detecting a change of the cell in response to the stimulation by Reg protein,

(c) selecting the one or more compounds that enhance or suppress the change of the cell as compared to when detected in the absence of the test sample.

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING

Kindly enter the attached substitute paper and computer readable forms of the Sequence Listing in lieu of the Sequence Listing submitted on December 10, 2001.